



145 Dennison Road
Essex, CT 06426
860/581-8554 FAX: 860/581-8543
www.rivercog.org

Chester, Clinton, Cromwell,
Deep River, Durham, East Haddam,
East Hampton, Essex, Haddam,
Killingworth, Lyme, Middlefield,
Middletown, Old Lyme,
Old Saybrook, Portland, Westbrook,

Catherine Iino, Chairman
Richard Smith, Vice Chairman
Susan Bransfield, Secretary
Edmund Meehan, Treasurer

LOWER CONNECTICUT RIVER VALLEY **COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS**

DRAFT MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

February 26, 2014

Members:

Chester: Edmund Meehan *
Clinton: Willie Fritz
Cromwell: Jonathan Sistare
Durham: Laura Francis *
East Haddam: Mark Walter *
East Hampton: Michael Maniscalco
Essex: Norm Needleman * (9:15)
Haddam: Melissa Schlag *
Killingworth: Cathy Iino *
Lyme: Ralph Eno *
Middlefield: Jon Brayshaw * (9:08)
Middletown: Daniel Drew
Old Lyme: Bonnie Reemsnyder *
Old Saybrook: Carl Fortuna *
Portland: Susan Bransfield *
Westbrook: Noel Bishop

Others Present:

Joe Comerford, Estuary Transit District Administrator
Andrew Chiaravallo, Middletown Area Transit Administrator
Bob Bell, President Essex Steam Train and River Boat
Darlene Briggs, Middlesex Chamber of Commerce
Edgar Wynkoop, CT Dept. of Transportation
Pat Bandz, CL&P Community Relations
Cathy Lezon, CL&P Community Relations
Stuart Popper, Cromwell Town Planner
Bill Warner, Middletown Town Planner
Bob Dobmeier, Deputy of Public Works
William Russo, Director of Public Works
John Guskowski, Essex Town Planner
Mark Goetz, RPIP Technical Adviser
Nicole Castro, Tighe and Bond

* Members Present

Staff Present:

Linda Krause
Jean Davies
Judy Snyder
Rob Haramut
Torrance Downes
Dan Bourret
Margot Burns

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Cathy Iino called the meeting to order at 10:18 a.m. at the offices of the Lower Connecticut River Valley Council of Governments in Essex.

2. APPROVAL OF THE JANUARY 30TH SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

Upon motion of Ed Meehan, seconded by Norman Needleman, it was unanimously voted to approve the minutes of the January 30, 2014 special meeting.

3. DISCUSSION OF FY 14/15 BUDGET – CLARIFICATIONS, IF NECESSARY

There were no comments at this time.

4. DISCUSS RPIP PROJECT – MARK GOETZ AND STAFF

Margot Burns introduced Mark Goetz, RPIP Technical Adviser and Nicole Castro, GIS specialist, Tighe and Bond. Ms. Burns stated that last week there was technical committee meeting in which assessors from the various towns discussed boundary issues that may develop when GIS mapping is done. The assessors use the best available data, usually deeds and maps, to distinguish the boundaries of a parcel. When a land owner disagrees with the assessor's findings it is the responsibility of the land owner to prove the accuracy of the boundaries in the form of a new land survey. Cathy Iino asked what happens if the land owner is being taxed on more land that was previously thought. Mr. Goetz said the tax assessor makes the determination and it is up to the land owner to verify their tax bill. Ms. Burns stated that GIS is a planning tool only and not survey quality data.

5. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

A. REPORT OF THE PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Ed Meehan stated that the Personnel Committee met and the bookkeeper/financial administrator position will be advertised in local newspapers the first part of March.

Linda Krause stated that the salary level increase this year will be between 2% and 15%. Laura Francis requested a chart of the positions with the present salaries and the proposed increases for the next fiscal year.

B. OTHER ITEMS

There were no items at this time.

6. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A. NEW RESEARCH UNDERWAY

Linda Krause updated the members on various programs. The non-market study is important for our region because the primary asset compared to other regions is our character. She stated that our intern, Erin Bogan, is collecting economic data such as the number of hotel rooms, restaurants, bed and breakfast facilities, etc. that are in our region.

B. HHW AND PAPER SHREDDING UPDATES

The schedule for the 2014 collections was distributed. This year there will be 4 paper shredding events and 13 household hazardous waste collections (attachment #1). In the northern towns there will be two paper shredding events and two hazardous waste collections. Margot Burns will be taking the certification class for hazardous waste handling.

C. REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION ACTIVITIES

Linda Krause stated that the RPC met Monday night and it is beneficial to have planning and zoning commission members from other towns get together and discuss ideas and issues involving their towns. Ms. Krause said that she had received a letter from Dan Morley, OPM saying that in a bill the RPCs were repealed last year. This was done because it was felt that the planning function should be directly performed by the Council of Government members. It was stated that the COG should not delegate the responsibility of creating a plan or doing the inter-municipal referrals. The repeal is effective January 1, 2015. She is meeting with Representative Jason Rojas next week to discuss this further.

Linda Krause said that a majority of the towns are represented at these meetings. Stuart Popper said he would ask the Cromwell Planning and Zoning Commission if any member would like to participate in the RPC.

Laura Francis asked to have a possible change to the by-laws on the March agenda.

D. GATEWAY COMMISSION AGREEMENT

Linda Krause said that the Gateway Commission would like a written agreement with the RiverCOG regarding staffing and location of meetings. Ed Meehan said that Executive Committee would like to review the agreement. This issue will be placed on the March agenda for the COG to review.

E. OTHER ITEMS

Ralph Eno reported on CRRA activities. The most relevant issue now is the Governor's Bill SB27 which is broad based. He said the Bill basically dissolves CRRA and creates another entity. If that were to happen the Commissioner of DEEP would have the authority to sell the Mid-Conn plant. Mr. Eno questions how this will affect the current 51 town's municipal service agreements with CRRA and will they be protected.

Upon motion of Laura Francis, seconded by Susan Bransfield, it was unanimously voted to oppose Senate Bill No. 27 "An Act Concerning Connecticut's Recycling and Materials Management Strategy" and send a letter to our State Senators and Representatives (attachment #2).

7. SELECTION OF WORKFORCE ALLIANCE REPRESENTATIVE

Laura Francis stated that there was a vacancy on the Workforce Alliance Board since Paul DeStefano left office. Ms. Francis nominated Susan Bransfield to be moved up from an alternate position to a member.

Upon motion of Laura Francis, seconded by Ralph Eno, it was unanimously voted to approve the nomination of Susan Bransfield to the position of a member of the Workforce Alliance Board.

Upon motion of Mark Walter, seconded by Laura Francis, it was unanimously voted to approve the nomination of Melissa Schlag to the position of member of the Workforce Alliance Board.

Ms. Francis stated that the member has to be the CEO of the town.

Laura Francis stated that with Susan Bransfield moving to a member position the alternate position is vacant. Stuart Popper will ask Mayor Enzo to fill the vacancy.

8. MISCELLANEOUS

Laura Francis distributed Raised Bills #5391 (attachment #3) and #288 (attachment #4) which pertain to the resident state troopers. Raised Bill #5391 attempts to bring down the cost to 70% of the fringe from 100% of the fringe that was approved in 2011. Raised Bill #288 addresses the issue that sometimes the towns are not notified of the increase until after the budgets have been passed.

Upon motion of Mark Walter, seconded by Susan Bransfield, it was unanimously voted to support the Raised Bills #5391 and #288 for the resident state troopers.

Laura Francis asked how many of the towns are members of CIRMA, Middlefield is the only town that is not a member. She and Mark Walter are active on the risk management committee. One issue that keeps being mentioned is the difficulty with the account representatives and the risk managers to get access to the CEOs. Participation is needed by the CEOs, not staff members and getting involved is a benefit for the towns.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion of Bonnie Reemsnyder, seconded by Melissa Schlag, it was unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 11:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith Snyder
Recording Secretary



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Attachment #1
Chester, Clinton, Cromwell,
Deep River, Durham, East Haddam,
East Hampton, Essex, Haddam,
Killingworth, Lyme, Middlefield,
Middletown, Old Lyme,
Old Saybrook, Portland, Westbrook

Household Hazardous Waste & Paper Shredding Schedule **2014 Season**

April 12 – **Clinton HHW***
May 3rd – **Northern town HHW – site TBD***
May 17th – Essex HHW
May 31st – **Northern town paper shredding – site TBD***
June 7th – Essex Paper shredding
June 14th – Essex HHW
July 12th – Essex HHW
July 26th – Essex HHW
Aug 9th – Essex HHW
Aug 23rd – Essex HHW
Sept 6th – Essex HHW
Sept 13 – **Middletown Paper shredding - Water & Sewer Dept.***
Sept 20th – Essex HHW
Sept 27th – Essex Paper shredding
Oct 4th – **Middletown HHW – Middlesex CC***
Oct 25th – Essex HHW
Nov. 8th – Essex HHW

***Collections for Cromwell, Durham, East Haddam (paper shredding only), East Hampton, Middlefield, Middletown and Portland**



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March 3, 2014

Representative Tom Vicino
House District 35
92 Carter Hill Rd
Clinton, CT 06413-1230

Dear Representative Vicino:

The Lower Connecticut River Valley Council of Governments voted at its regular meeting February 25, 2014 to oppose Senate Bill No. 27, **AN ACT CONCERNING CONNECTICUT'S RECYCLING AND MATERIALS MANAGEMENT STRATEGY**. Our member towns respectfully request your support for this action as the bill makes its way through the legislative process during this session of the General Assembly.

There are several provisions in the bill causing membership concern. First, it is not clear how the interests of municipalities presently holding long term service agreements with the Connecticut Resources Recovery Authority will be protected if and when the Mid Conn trash to energy plant is sold or transferred to another entity.

Next, the bill does not address how the equity positions of the 70 some odd original CRRA member towns will be protected if plant ownership is to be transferred. It was their tipping fee dollars that retired a major portion of the bonding debt incurred when the facility was constructed.

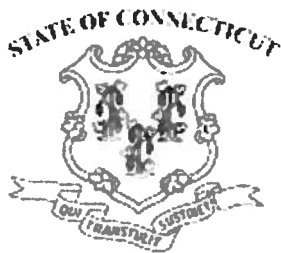
Member towns are also worried about a provision in the legislation which gives the Commissioner of the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection authority to assign municipalities to recycling regions. Presently, Connecticut's cities and towns get to make that choice for themselves in a manner deemed to be in the best interest of their residents and taxpayers.

These are the key issues that precipitated the vote. There are others as well including the matter of whether such a radical approach is the best way to deal with the state's long term recycling and MSW disposal needs.

Should you have questions or comments please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully,

Linda Krause, Executive Director
Lower Connecticut River Valley Council of Governments



General Assembly

Raised Bill No. 5391

February Session, 2014

LCO No. 1544

01544_____PS_

Referred to Committee on PUBLIC SAFETY AND SECURITY

Introduced by:

(PS)

AN ACT CONCERNING OVERTIME AND FRINGE BENEFITS OF RESIDENT STATE TROOPERS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

Section 1. Section 29-5 of the 2014 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

(a) The Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection may, within available appropriations, appoint suitable persons from the regular state police force as resident state policemen in addition to the regular state police force to be employed and empowered as state policemen in any town or two or more adjoining towns lacking an organized police force, and such officers may be detailed by said commissioner as resident state policemen for regular assignment to such towns, provided each town shall pay sixty per cent of the cost of compensation, maintenance and other expenses of the state policemen detailed to such town, and on and after July 1, [2011] 2014, each town shall pay seventy per cent of such regular cost and other expenses and [one hundred] seventy per cent of any overtime costs and such portion of fringe benefits directly associated with such overtime costs. Such town or towns and the Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection are authorized to enter into

agreements and contracts for such police services, with the approval of the Attorney General, for periods not exceeding two years.

(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this section, the Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection shall appoint a resident state policeman to serve in a pilot program assignment for two towns lacking an organized police force or constabulary and located within the jurisdiction of the same state police troop pursuant to a memorandum of agreement with towns requesting participation in the pilot program. Towns participating in the pilot program shall be responsible for the costs and expenses of such resident state policeman as provided in subsection (a) of this section.

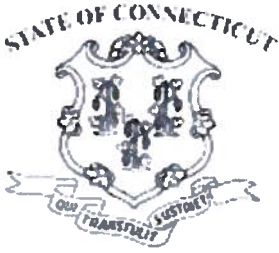
(c) The Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection shall exercise such supervision and direction over any resident policeman so appointed as said commissioner deems necessary, and each appointee shall be required to conform to the requirements of chapter 67. Each resident state policeman shall have the same powers as officers of the regular state police force and be entitled to the same rights and subject to the same rules and regulations as the Division of State Police within the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2014	29-5

Statement of Purpose:

To reduce the amount of money that towns must reimburse the state for the cost of resident state troopers for overtime and fringe benefits from one hundred per cent to seventy per cent.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]



General Assembly

Raised Bill No. 288

February Session, 2014

LCO No. 1608

01608_____PS_

Referred to Committee on PUBLIC SAFETY AND SECURITY

Introduced by:

(PS)

AN ACT CONCERNING NOTICE OF COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH RESIDENT STATE TROOPERS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

Section 1. Section 29-5 of the 2014 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2014*):

(a) The Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection may, within available appropriations, appoint suitable persons from the regular state police force as resident state policemen in addition to the regular state police force to be employed and empowered as state policemen in any town or two or more adjoining towns lacking an organized police force, and such officers may be detailed by said commissioner as resident state policemen for regular assignment to such towns, provided each town shall pay sixty per cent of the cost of compensation, maintenance and other expenses of the state policemen detailed to such town, and on and after July 1, 2011, each town shall pay seventy per cent of such regular cost and other expenses and one hundred per cent of any overtime costs and such portion of fringe benefits directly associated with such overtime costs. The Comptroller shall provide such town or towns with advance notice of an estimated increase in fringe benefits directly associated with such overtime costs. Such town or towns and the Commissioner of Emergency Services

and Public Protection are authorized to enter into agreements and contracts for such police services, with the approval of the Attorney General, for periods not exceeding two years.

(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this section, the Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection shall appoint a resident state policeman to serve in a pilot program assignment for two towns lacking an organized police force or constabulary and located within the jurisdiction of the same state police troop pursuant to a memorandum of agreement with towns requesting participation in the pilot program. Towns participating in the pilot program shall be responsible for the costs and expenses of such resident state policeman as provided in subsection (a) of this section.

(c) The Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection shall exercise such supervision and direction over any resident policeman so appointed as said commissioner deems necessary, and each appointee shall be required to conform to the requirements of chapter 67. Each resident state policeman shall have the same powers as officers of the regular state police force and be entitled to the same rights and subject to the same rules and regulations as the Division of State Police within the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2014	29-5

Statement of Purpose:

To require the Comptroller provide towns with advance notice of any fringe benefit increase for the resident state trooper program.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]